

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 CU-02 AID-05

MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 PC-01

IO-13 ACDA-07 /117 W

-----172005Z 112599 /64

R 171210Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: MDB DEPUTY CASSATED

REF: BRASILIA 4740

1. USING AI-5, PRESIDENT GEISEL JUNE 14 CASSATED MDB DEPUTY MARCOS TITO, ENDING HIS TERM OF OFFICE AND SUSPENDING HIS POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR TEN YEARS. TITO WAS CASSATED FOR A MAY 24 SPEECH CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDED PASSAGES EXTRACTED FROM A MANIFESTO IN THE CLANDESTINE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCB) PUBLICATION VOZ OPERARIA (REFTEL). ARENA CONSERVATIVES HAD USED THE SPEECH AS EVIDENCE THAT THE OPPOSITION MDB WAS INFILTRATED BY SUBVERSIVES.

2. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION PREDICTABLY DIVIDED ALONG PARTY LINES WITH THE ARENA LEADERSHIP SEEING THE CASSATION AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"REVOLUTIONARY ACT." MDB PRESIDENT ULYSSES GUIMARAES SAID THE CASSATION WAS EVIDENCE THAT DEMOCRACY DID NOT EXIST IN BRAZIL, AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MDB LEADER ALENCAR FURTADO IN A AMOTIONAL, STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT LAMENTED ACT, CLAIMING "DAYS WOULD COME WHEN THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE A POWER, JUSTICE RESPECTED" AND DEPUTIES COULD FULFILL THEIR MANDATE TO THE SATISFACTION

OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THEM.

3. PRESS SPECULATION HAS FOCUSED UPON THE REASONS BEHIND THE PRESIDENT'S DELAY IN CASSATING TITO. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO SAID CASSATION WAS DECIDED TEN DAYS AGO BUT THAT THREE FACTORS DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION:

--MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: GEISEL DID NOT WANT TO CREATE INTERNAL DISSENSION DURING VISIT, OR HAVE ACT INTERPRETED AS DIRECTED AT THE CARTERS.

--ISOLATION OF MDB RADICALS: PRESIDENT HOPED DELAY WOULD GIVE MDB MODERATES OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH ARENA IN ISOLATING RADICAL MDB DEPUTIES WITHIN THE CONGRESS.

--PRESIDENTIAL MODERATION OF HARDLINERS WHO ALSO WANTED TO CASSATE THREE MDB DEPUTIES WHO URGED ON STRIKING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (REFTEL), AND MDB SENATOR QUERCIA WHO IS FACING A SENATE INQUIRY FOR CORRUPTION.

4. COMMENT: CASSATION WAS THE FIRST FOR POLITICAL REASONS SINCE TWO RADICAL MDB CITY COUNCILMEN WERE CASSATED IN PORTO ALEGRE IN FEBRUARY. IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE. BY READING CLANDESTINE PCB STATEMENT INTO THE RECORD, TITO VIOLATED BASIC TENET OF THE REVOLUTION, WHICH PROHIBITS ANY ROLE, EVEN INDIRECTLY, FOR COMMUNISTS IN BRAZIL'S POLITICAL LIFE. WHILE CASSATION OF TITO CAN BE SEEN AS VINDICATION FOR CONSERVATIVES IN MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES (ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER REPORTEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDED THE INCRIMINATING INFORMATION ON TITO), THE FACT THAT ONLY TITO WAS CASSATED AND THAT NO HARDER GENERAL MEASURES WERE ADOPTED WAS MODEST SALVE FOR THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HOPE TO PRESERVE WHAT REMAINS OF "DISTENSAO."  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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